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PTO/SB/05 (12/97)
Approved for use through 09/30/00. OMB 0651-0032
Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.	K35A0653	Total Pages	
First Named Inventor or Application Identifier			
ANDREW D. HOSPODOR			
Express Mail Label No.	EK995292717US		

PTO
09/28/00

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

ADDRESS TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

- ☒ Fee Transmittal Form
(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)
- ☒ Specification [Total Pages 23]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
 - Descriptive title of the Invention
 - Cross References to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to Microfiche Appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
- ☒ Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) [Total Sheets 7]
X Formal _ Informal
- Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 3]
 - ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)
 - ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)
[Note Box 5 below]
 - ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
- ☐ Incorporation By Reference (useable if Box 4b is checked)
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.

- ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
- Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)
 - ☐ Computer Readable Copy
 - ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
 - ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

- ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
- ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee) ☐ Power of Attorney
- ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
- ☐ Preliminary Amendment
- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
- ☐ Small Entity Statement filed in prior application, Status still proper and desired
- ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)
- ☒ Other: BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA FORM

17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:
☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: _____

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FEE TRANSMITTAL		Complete if Known	
		Application Number	UNKNOWN
<i>Note: Effective October 1, 1997. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.</i>		Filing Date	HEREWITH
		First Named Inventor	ANDREW D. HOSPODOR
		Group Art Unit	UNKNOWN
		Examiner Name	UNKNOWN
		Attorney Docket Number	K35A0653
TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT	(\$)	1260.00	

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check one)	FEE CALCULATION (continued)																																																																																																																																																																																										
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ADDITIONAL FEES</p> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Large Fee Code</th><th>Entity Fee (\$)</th><th>Small Fee Code</th><th>Entity Fee (\$)</th><th>Fee Description</th><th>Fee Paid</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>105</td><td>130</td><td>205</td><td>65</td><td>Surcharge - late filing fee or oath</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>127</td><td>50</td><td>227</td><td>25</td><td>Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet.</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>139</td><td>130</td><td>139</td><td>130</td><td>Non-English specification</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>147</td><td>2,520</td><td>147</td><td>2,520</td><td>For filing a request for reexamination</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>112</td><td>920*</td><td>112</td><td>920*</td><td>Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>113</td><td>1,840*</td><td>113</td><td>1,840*</td><td>Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>115</td><td>110</td><td>215</td><td>55</td><td>Extension for reply within first month</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>116</td><td>380</td><td>216</td><td>190</td><td>Extension for reply within second month</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>117</td><td>870</td><td>217</td><td>435</td><td>Extension for reply within third month</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>118</td><td>1,360</td><td>218</td><td>680</td><td>Extension for reply within fourth month</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>128</td><td>1,850</td><td>228</td><td>925</td><td>Extension for reply within fifth month</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>119</td><td>300</td><td>219</td><td>150</td><td>Notice of Appeal</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>120</td><td>300</td><td>220</td><td>150</td><td>Filing a brief in support of an appeal</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>121</td><td>260</td><td>221</td><td>130</td><td>Request for oral hearing</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>138</td><td>1,510</td><td>138</td><td>1,510</td><td>Petition to institute a public use proceeding</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>140</td><td>110</td><td>240</td><td>55</td><td>Petition to revive - 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SUBMITTED BY				Complete (if applicable)	
Typed or Printed Name	Milad G. Shara, Esq.			Reg. Number	39,367
Signature				Deposit Account User ID	
	Date	9/28/00			

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Application Information

Title Line One :: Resource Reservation System In A Computer Network
Title Line Two:: To Support End-To-End Quality-Of-Service Constraints
Total Drawing Sheets :: 7
Formal Drawings :: Yes
Application Type :: Utility
Docket Number :: K35A0653
Licensed - U S Government Agency :: N/A
Contract Number :: N/A
Grant Number :: N/A
Secrecy Order in Parent Application :: N/A

Representative Information

Representative Customer Number One:: Milad G. Shara, Esq.
Registration Number One :: 39,367
Representative Customer Number Two:: Howard H. Sheerin, Esq.
Registration Number Two:: 37,938

RESOURCE RESERVATION SYSTEM IN A COMPUTER NETWORK TO SUPPORT END-TO-END QUALITY-OF-SERVICE CONSTRAINTS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to computer networks. More particularly, the present invention relates to a resource reservation system in a computer network to support end-to-end Quality-of-Service constraints.

Description of the Prior Art

Quality-of-Service (QOS) typically refers to a predetermined minimum latency and minimum data transfer rate supported by a computer network. Point-to-Point QOS is typically implemented within prior art networks by reserving resources through a path from the source node to the destination node (see the Resource Reservation Protocol or RSVP an overview for which is provided in the text book *Managing Bandwidth - Deploying QOS in Enterprise Networks*, by Alistair Croll and Eric Packman, Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ, 1999; and "Resource Reservation Protocol (RSVP) -- Version 1 Functional Specification", Braden, R., Zhang, L., Berson, S., Herzog, S., Jamin, S., RFC 2205, September 1997, Proposed Standard). Reserving resources throughout the transmission path guarantees that the connection will support a desired QOS for a specified period. Implementing QOS constraints requires knowledge of the resources in each node and the connection between the nodes in the network including the transmission latencies and bandwidth.

Consider, for example, the prior art computer network 2 shown in FIG. 1. When client computer 4B attempts to access a data stream stored on a disk drive 6 attached to network server 8, a transmission path 10 through nodes 16a and 16b may be established by reserving the necessary resources at each node to support predetermined QOS constraints such as latency and data rate. During the life of the reserved transmission path 10, nodes 16a and 16b may be

1 inaccessible by other client computers (e.g., client computer 4C) if either node lacks the
2 resources to handle additional traffic.

3 Because the mechanical latency of the disk drive 6 is not taken into account in the QOS
4 equation, the network server 8 will typically buffer a sufficient amount of the data stream so that
5 the mechanical latency of the disk drive 6 does not impact the QOS constraints. However, this
6 implementation may require a significant amount of buffer memory and processing power at the
7 network server 8 in order to support multiple, simultaneous streams. Further, for certain business
8 transactions, such as bidding on auctions over a network, the QOS constraints could be on the
9 order of milliseconds. In such applications it may become impractical or even impossible to
10 satisfy the QOS constraints due to the mechanical latencies of the disk drives responsible for
11 servicing the transaction data.

12 There is, therefore, a need to reduce the complexity and cost of implementing QOS
13 constraints in a computer network, particularly with respect to the mechanical latencies of disk
14 storage devices. In particular, there is a need to support QOS constraints on the order of
15 milliseconds in transactions executed over a computer network.

16 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

17 The present invention may be regarded as a switched node comprising switching circuitry
18 having more than two bi-directional ports for simultaneously transmitting data in multiple
19 dimensions through the computer network, a disk for storing data, a head actuated over the disk
20 for writing data to and reading data from the disk, and a reservation facility for reserving
21 resources associated with data read from the disk and written to the disk to support a
22 predetermined Quality-of-Service constraint with respect to data transmitted through the
23 computer network.

24 In one embodiment, the resources reserved by the reservation facility comprise memory
25 for buffering data within the switched node.

26 In another embodiment, the reservation facility limits movement of the head so as to
27 constrain the head to a predetermined region of the disk, thereby reserving a resource within the

1 switched node.

2 In yet another embodiment, the switching circuitry comprises a plurality of virtual lanes
3 and the resources comprise at least one of the virtual lanes.

4 The present invention may also be regarded as method of reserving resources in a
5 computer network to support a predetermined Quality-of-Service constraint with respect to a new
6 access request to transmit data between a disk drive and a client computer, the computer network
7 comprising a plurality of interconnected computer devices including a plurality of disk drives,
8 each disk drive comprising a head and a disk. The method comprises the steps of finding at least
9 one disk drive out of the plurality of disk drives that can service the new access request while
10 supporting the Quality-of-Service constraint for the new and existing access requests, and
11 reserving resources within the at least one disk drive to service the new access request. The
12 present invention may also be regarded as a computer network comprising a plurality of
13 interconnected computer devices including a plurality of client computers and a plurality of disk
14 drives for storing network data, each disk drive comprising a head and a disk. The computer
15 network comprises a plurality of interconnected nodes, and a reservation facility for reserving
16 resources within the disk drives and the nodes to support a predetermined Quality-of-Service
17 constraint with respect to data transmitted between the disk drives and the client computers
18 through the nodes of the computer network.

19 The present invention may also be regarded as a computer network comprising a plurality
20 of interconnected computer devices including a plurality of disk drives for storing network data,
21 each disk drive comprising a head and a disk. The computer network comprises a plurality of
22 interconnected nodes, and a reservation facility for reserving resources within the disk drives and
23 the nodes to support a predetermined Quality-of-Service constraint with respect to data
24 transmitted between the disk drives through the nodes of the computer network.

25 The present invention may also be regarded as a switched fabric computer network
26 comprising a plurality of interconnected nodes for simultaneously transmitting data in multiple
27 dimensions through the computer network. Each node comprises switching circuitry comprising

1 more than two bi-directional ports, a disk for storing data, and a head actuated over the disk for
2 writing data to and reading data from the disk. The switched fabric computer network further
3 comprises a reservation facility for reserving resources associated with data read from the disk
4 and written to the disk to support a predetermined Quality-of-Service constraint with respect to
5 data transmitted between the interconnected nodes and client computers connected to the
6 switched fabric computer network.

7 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

8 FIG. 1 shows a prior art a computer network wherein a path is established between a
9 client computer and a network server by reserving resources at each node to support a
10 predetermined QOS constraint.

11 FIG. 2 shows details of the switched node according to an embodiment of the present
12 invention comprising a disk, a head, and a reservation facility for reserving resources associated
13 with the disk and head.

14 FIG. 3 shows a two dimensional switched fabric comprising a plurality of switched
15 nodes, including switched nodes comprising a disk, a head, and switched nodes comprising
16 adapter circuitry for connecting to an external entity.

17 FIG. 4 shows a switched fabric computer network according to an embodiment of the
18 present invention wherein a path is established between a client and a disk drive by reserving
19 resources in the switched nodes of a switched fabric as well as in the disk drive.

20 FIG. 5 shows a computer network according to an embodiment of the present invention
21 wherein a path is established between a client computer and a disk drive connected to a network
22 server by reserving resources at each node as well as within the disk drive to support a
23 predetermined QOS constraint.

24 FIG. 6 shows a computer network according to an embodiment of the present invention
25 wherein a path is established between a client computer and a network attached storage device
26 (NASD) by reserving resources at each node as well as within the NASD to support a
27 predetermined QOS constraint.

FIG. 7 shows details of a disk drive according to an embodiment of the present invention including a disk controller for reserving resources within the disk drive to support a predetermined QOS constraint.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

FIG. 2 shows a switched node 14_i according to an embodiment of the present invention. The switched node 14_i comprises switching circuitry having more than two bi-directional ports for simultaneously transmitting data in multiple dimensions through the computer network, a disk 16a for storing data and a head 16b actuated over the disk 16a for writing data to and reading data from the disk 16a, and a reservation facility 18A-18E for reserving resources associated with data read from the disk 16a and written to the disk to support a predetermined Quality-of-Service constraint with respect to data transmitted through the computer network.

In contrast to the prior art techniques for supporting Point-to-Point QOS constraints by reserving resources at the nodes in a path between two entities in a network, the embodiment of FIG. 2 supports End-to-End QOS constraints by reserving resources at the end of the path (i.e., at the disk drive) as well as at the nodes through the path. In an embodiment described below, a path is established between two disk drives connected to the network and resources are reserved at both ends of the path (i.e., at both disk drives) as well as at the nodes in the path between the disk drives.

The switched node of FIG. 2 is interconnected with a plurality of other switched nodes 20 such as shown in FIG. 3 to form a multi-dimensional switched fabric. Each of the switched nodes in FIG. 3 comprises four bi-directional ports (North, East, South and West) forming a two-dimensional fabric. Control data 22 is generated by a switched fabric microprocessor, such as the microprocessor 24 in the switched fabric network 26 shown in FIG. 4. In one embodiment, the network data transmitted through the switched nodes 20 consist of packets having a packet header comprising routing data which identifies the source node for the packet. The packets are buffered in buffers 28₀-28_N, and the microprocessor 24 processes the packet header in order to route the packet through the switched nodes 20. A suitable routing algorithm implemented by

the microprocessor 24 of FIG. 4 generates control data 22 for configuring the switched nodes 20. Any suitable routing algorithm may be employed, and it may support Unicast, Multicast, or Broadcast delivery mechanisms. The routing decisions may be made centrally, at the source, distributed, or multiphase, implemented using a lookup table or using a finite-state machine. Further, the routing algorithm may be deterministic or adaptive. A discussion of various routing algorithms which may be employed in the embodiments of the present invention is provided by Jose Duato et al. in the textbook "Interconnection Networks, an Engineering Approach", IEEE Computer Society, 1997.

The routing algorithm is implemented a layer "above" the switching layer, and thus the routing algorithm may be compatible with various different switching algorithms, for example, Virtual Cut-Through Switching, Wormhole Switching, and Mad Postman Switching. In addition, topologies other than the two-dimensional switched fabric of FIG. 3, as well as topologies comprising more than two dimensions, may be employed in the present invention by decreasing or increasing the number of bi-directional ports per switched node. Various topologies and switching algorithms which may be employed in the embodiments of the present invention are discussed in the aforementioned textbook by Jose Duato et al.

In the embodiment shown in FIG. 3, the switched nodes 20 constituting the switched fabric suitably comprise processing circuitry and memory to facilitate the routing, scheduling and resource reservation operations. In addition, the switched nodes 20 may or may not comprise a disk 16a and a head 16b. Also in the embodiment of FIG. 3, a select number of the switched nodes 20 comprise adapter circuitry 21 for connecting to an external entity (e.g., a client computer in FIG. 4). In the example of FIG. 3, switched nodes 14₀-14₂ comprise a disk 16a and a head 16b as shown in FIG. 2, switched nodes 15₀-15₂ comprise the circuitry shown in FIG. 2 without the disk 16a and head 16b, and switched nodes 17₀-17₂ comprise adapter circuitry 21 for connecting to an external entity and may or may not comprise a disk 16a and a head 16b. In another embodiment, a selected number of the switched nodes (e.g., 15₀-15₂) comprise a microprocessor for implementing a distributed routing algorithm.

1 Referring again to FIG. 2, the bi-directional ports of the switched node 14_i comprise four
2 input ports 30A-30D and four output ports 32A-32D corresponding to the North, East, South and
3 West ports shown in FIG. 3. Data packets received from the input ports 30A-30D are buffered in
4 FIFO buffers 34A-34D. A routing table 36 is configured by the control data 22 generated by the
5 microprocessor 24 of FIG. 4. The routing table 36 generates control signals 38A-38D which
6 configure multiplexers 40A-40D in order to route the data packets to appropriate data buffers
7 42A-42D associated with the output ports 32A-32D. In this manner, the data packets cross the
8 switched node 14_i immediately except for the delay of the FIFO buffer 34A-34D. The FIFO
9 buffers 34A-34D provide buffering of input data in the event that the target data buffer 42 is full
10 or busy receiving data from another of the input ports.

11 The data packets may also be routed to an input port 44 associated with the disk 16a and
12 the head 16b and stored in data buffer 46, wherein the data stored in data buffer 46 is ultimately
13 written onto the disk 16a. Data read from the disk 16a is also stored in the data buffer 46 and
14 transmitted via output port 48 to the appropriate data buffer 42A-42D.

15 A scheduling facility 50A-50E is also provided within the switched node 14_i which
16 schedules the time when the data packets are to be transferred from the data buffers 42A-42D to
17 the output ports 32A-32D, and when data packets are transferred to and from the disk 16a. In
18 one embodiment, the timing information for the packets are stored in the packet headers and
19 processed by the scheduling facility 50A-50E. In one embodiment, the timing information
20 implements an isochronous communication protocol such as disclosed in the in Texas
21 Instruments' TSB12LV41A link-layer controller (LLC) which supports the IEEE 1394
22 specification for high-performance serial bus with automatic generation of the common
23 isochronous packet headers and time stamping as required by the IEC 61883 standard.

24 In one embodiment, the data buffers 42A-42D comprise a plurality of virtual lanes where
25 each virtual lane is assigned a predetermined priority level. The scheduling facility 50A-50D
26 schedules the data packets according to the timing information by queuing the data packets in the
27 appropriate virtual lanes. For example, data packets with shorter transmission deadlines are

1 queued in higher priority virtual lanes, whereas data packets with longer transmission deadlines
2 are queued in lower priority virtual lanes. In addition, within a virtual lane the data packets can
3 be queued in order of arrival (FIFO) or in order of departure based on the transmission deadlines
4 in order to support predetermined QOS constraints. Details of departure queuing are disclosed
5 by Jennifer Rexford, et al. in "A Router Architecture for Real-Time Communication in
6 Multicomputer Networks", *IEEE Transactions on Computers*, Vol. 47, No. 10, October 1998,
7 which is incorporated herein by reference.

8 In the embodiment of FIG. 2, the reservation facility 18A-18D within the switched node
9 14_i reserves resources associated with the scheduling facility 50A-50D to support predetermined
10 QOS constraints for data transmitted through the switch node 14_i, and reservation facility 18E
11 reserves resources associated with the scheduling facility 50E to support predetermined QOS
12 constraints for data transmitted to and from the disk 16a. The scheduling facility 50E also
13 comprises additional resources for implementing the interface between the data buffer 46 and the
14 disk 16a.

15 In one embodiment, the reservation facility 18A-18D reserves a virtual lane to support
16 predetermined QOS constraints with respect to data transferred through the switched node 14_i. In
17 another embodiment, the reservation facility 18A-18D reserves processing circuitry within the
18 switched node 14_i for implementing the routing and scheduling operations. In yet another
19 embodiment, the switched node 14_i comprises circuitry for linking the output ports 32A-32D to
20 input ports 30A-30D of other switched nodes, the linking circuitry has limited bandwidth, and
21 the reservation facility 18A-18D reserves at least part of the linking circuitry bandwidth to
22 support predetermined QOS constraints. In still another embodiment, the reservation facility
23 18A-18D reserves at least part of the adapter circuitry 21 shown FIG. 3 to support predetermined
24 QOS constraints.

25 In another embodiment, the reservation facility 18E reserves memory within the data
26 buffer 46 to support writing a data stream to the disk 16a or to support reading a data stream
27 from the disk 16a. In yet another embodiment, the reservation facility 18E limits movement of

the head 16b with respect to the disk 16a so as to constrain the head 16b to a predetermined region of the disk 16a, thereby reserving a resource within the switched node 14_i.

The switched node of 14_i of FIG. 2 can be extended to add additional dimensionality by duplicating the circuitry associated with each bi-directional port (input port 30, FIFO 34, MUX 40, output port 32, etc.). In one embodiment, the switched node 14_i is a commodity device which comprises a facility for dynamically configuring the bi-directional ports to support a desired switched fabric topology. Thus, a number of the input ports 30A-30D and/or a number of the output ports 32A-32D may be configured to connect to ports of other switched nodes, whereas the remaining ports may be left unconnected.

FIG. 5 shows a computer network 52 according to another embodiment of the present invention wherein a plurality of disk drives 54₀-54_N are employed by a network server 56 to implement a network storage system. In one embodiment, each disk drive 54_i stores a mirrored copy of network data such that the data can be retrieved by a client from any one of the disk drives 54₀-54_N. Each disk drive 54_i comprises a reservation facility for reserving resources within the disk drive 54_i to support predetermined QOS constraints. For example, when client 58B requests data stored in the network storage system, a path 60 is established by reserving appropriate resources in nodes 62A and 62B, in the network server 56, and finally in disk drive 54₀. If client 58D simultaneously requests access to data stored in the network storage system, a path 64 is established by reserving resources in nodes 62C and 62D, in the network server 56, and in a disk drive other than disk drive 54₀ (e.g., disk drive 54₂) since disk drive 54₀ may not have sufficient resources available to service the request for client 58D as well as the request for client 58B.

In one embodiment, the network server 56 sends a client's request to each of the disk drives 54₀-54_N looking for a disk drive with sufficient resources to service the request. For example, when the network server 56 receives the request from client 58D, it first sends the request to disk drive 54₀. Disk drive 54₀ transmits a message back to the network server 56 indicating that the request cannot be serviced due to the drive's resources having already been

reserved to support path 60 established for the access request from client 58B. The network server 56 then sends the request to disk drive 54₁ and ultimately to disk drive 54₂ which is able to service the request. In another embodiment, the network server 56 multicasts the request to the disk drives 54₀-54_N and then selects from the disk drives which can service the request.

FIG. 6 shows a computer network 66 according to another embodiment of the present invention wherein the disk drives 54₀-54_N of FIG. 5 are implemented as network attached storage devices (NASD) comprising network communication circuitry for connecting directly to the network rather than through a network server 56 as in FIG. 5. In FIG. 6, client 68B is accessing the network storage system through path 70 established by reserving resources in nodes 72A and 72B as well as in NASD disk drive 54₁. A simultaneous access request by client 68D is serviced through path 74 by reserving resources in nodes 72C and 72D as well as in NASD disk drive 54_N.

In one embodiment, the access requests from the clients are sent to each NASD disk drive 54₀-54_N until one is found that has sufficient resources to service the request. For example, if in FIG. 6 the request from client 68D was first sent to NASD disk drive 54₁, NASD disk drive 54₁ would transmit a message to node 72C indicating that it could not service the request due to the resources already reserved for client 68B. Node 72C would then send the request to NASD disk drive 54_N which would reply with a message indicating that it has sufficient resources to service the request.

In another embodiment, a path is reserved between two disk drives. For example, disk drive 54₀ connected to the network server 56 or connected directly to the network (NASD) may establish a path with another disk drive connected to the network (e.g., a disk drive connected to client computer 58A or another NASD drive connected directly to the network, such as NASD disk drive 54₁). Resources are reserved within both disk drives, thereby supporting End-to-End QOS constraints.

FIG. 7 shows a disk drive 54₁ for communicating with a client computer or with another disk drive through a computer network, such as the computer network of FIG. 5 or FIG. 6. The

1 disk drive 54_i comprises a disk 76 for storing data, a head 78 actuated over the disk 76 for writing
2 data to and reading data from the disk 76, and a disk controller 80 for controlling access to the
3 disk 76, wherein the disk controller 80 comprises a reservation facility for reserving resources
4 within the disk drive 54_i to support predetermined QOS constraints with respect to data
5 transmitted between the disk drive 54_i and the client computer through the computer network.

6 In one embodiment, the resources reserved by the reservation facility comprise memory
7 82 for buffering data within the disk drive 54_i. For example, when transmitting a data stream
8 from the client computer to the disk drive 54_i, data received via the disk drive's interface 84 is
9 stored in the memory 82 before being written to the disk 76. The disk controller 80 reserves a
10 sufficient amount of memory 82 to ensure that the data flowing from the interface 84 is not
11 interrupted for a sustained period so as to guarantee a Quality-of-Service with respect to the data
12 received from the client computer. In one embodiment, the disk drive 54_i reserves a sufficient
13 amount of memory 82 to service the client's request as well as other requests in an interleaved
14 manner. Thus, while the disk drive 54_i is servicing another request, data associated with the
15 client's request is buffered in the memory 82.

16 The disk controller 80 evaluates a queue of access requests, as well as the current
17 capacity for the memory 82, to determine whether the client's request can be serviced. If the
18 client's request cannot be serviced, the disk drive 54_i transmits a message to this effect to an
19 external entity (e.g., to a network server or to a node in a network). If the client's request can be
20 serviced, then the disk drive 54_i begins to store the client's data in the reserved area of the
21 memory 82. The disk controller 80 then reads the client's data from the memory 82, performs
22 appropriate data formatting (e.g., error correction code (ECC) encoding), and then writes the
23 formatted data to the disk 76 via a read/write channel 86. The read/write channel 86 is also
24 employed to read data from the disk drive wherein the ECC coding is used to detect and correct
25 errors induced by the recording process.

26 In another embodiment, the reservation facility within the disk controller 80 limits
27 movement of the head 78 so as to constrain the head 78 to a predetermined region 88 of the disk

1 76, thereby reserving a resource within the disk drive 54. In one embodiment, the predetermined
2 region 88 is defined by a predetermined number of concentric tracks recorded on the disk 76 and
3 centered about a predetermined radial location. For example, if a client's data stream is to be
4 written to a particular track, then the reservation facility may limit movement of the head 78 so
5 as to prevent the head 78 from deviating excessively from the data stream's track. This limits the
6 seek time to the data stream's track in order to satisfy the QOS constraints. In other words, if the
7 disk drive 54, is servicing another request, the seek time to return the head 78 to the data stream's
8 track will always be within a known threshold which ensures that the QOS constraints are
9 satisfied with respect to the client's request to write the data stream to the disk 76.

10 In one embodiment, the disk controller 80 comprises suitable servo control facilities for
11 controlling a voice coil motor (VCM) 90 which actuates the head 78 over the disk 76. The disk
12 controller 80 limits movement of the head 78 through the servo control facilities, that is, by
13 evaluating client requests as well as pending requests and then controlling the VCM 90 so as to
14 prevent the head 78 from deviating outside of the predetermined region 88.

15 Resources within the disk drive 54, may also be reserved to facilitate client requests to
16 read data from the disk 76. For example, the data rate of the disk drive 54, for any particular data
17 stream may depend on the amount of memory 82 reserved for that data stream, where the
18 memory 82 requirement increases as the desired data rate increases. This may be due, for
19 example, to the error correction capabilities of the disk controller 80. Thus, the disk controller
20 80 evaluates the desired data rate for a client's requests, together with pending requests, to
21 determine whether the disk drive 54, has sufficient resources to satisfy the request. If so, the disk
22 controller 80 reserves a sufficient amount of memory 82 to service the request; otherwise, the
23 disk drive 54, notifies an external entity as to the inability to service the request.

24 Limiting the head 78 to a predetermined region on the disk 76 may also facilitate
25 transferring a data stream from the disk 76 to a client computer while satisfying predetermined
26 QOS constraints. Similar to a write operation, limiting movement of the head 78 limits the seek
27 time to ensure that the head 78 can return to a particular data track within a known period. That

1 is, it ensures the disk controller 80 can return the head 78 to a particular data track after servicing
2 a current access request.

3 In one embodiment, the resources reserved by the reservation facility include network
4 communication circuitry within the disk drive 54_i for use in communicating with the computer
5 network. For example, the disk drive 54_i of FIG. 7 may comprise network communication
6 circuitry for implementing an isochronous protocol, wherein at least part of this circuitry is
7 reserved when a path is established for a client request. Suitable circuitry for implementing an
8 isochronous protocol is disclosed in Texas Instruments' TSB12LV41A link-layer controller
9 (LLC) which supports the IEEE 1394 specification for high-performance serial bus with
10 automatic generation of the common isochronous packet headers and time stamping as required
11 by the IEC 61883 standard.

12 In one embodiment, the disk drive 54_i of FIG. 7 is attached to a switched fabric computer
13 network 26 as illustrated in FIG. 4. In this embodiment, the reservation facility will reserve
14 resources in a path through the switched nodes 20 as well as resources within the disk drive 54_i in
15 order to support QOS constraints for a client computer attached to the switched fabric computer
16 network 26. The disk drive 54_i as well as the client computer may be attached to the edge of the
17 switched fabric computer network 26, or they may be attached to an internal switched node
18 through adapter circuitry 21 as shown in FIG. 3.

WE CLAIM:

1. A switched node for use in a computer network comprising:
 - (a) switching circuitry comprising more than two bi-directional ports for simultaneously transmitting data in multiple dimensions through the computer network;
 - (b) a disk for storing data and a head actuated over the disk for writing data to and reading data from the disk; and
 - (c) a reservation facility for reserving resources associated with data read from the disk and written to the disk to support a predetermined Quality-of-Service constraint with respect to data transmitted through the computer network.
2. The switched node of claim 1, wherein the resources comprise memory for buffering data.
3. The switched node of claim 1, wherein the switching circuitry comprises a plurality of virtual lanes and the resources comprise at least one of the virtual lanes.
4. The switched node of claim 3, wherein each virtual lane comprises a predetermined priority level.
5. The switched node of claim 3, wherein data is queued within each virtual lane in order of arrival into the switched node.
6. The switched node of claim 3, wherein data is queued within each virtual lane with respect to transmission deadlines associated with the data.
7. The switched node of claim 1, wherein the switching circuitry comprises processing circuitry and the resources comprise at least part of the processing circuitry.
8. The switched node of claim 1, wherein:
 - (a) the switching circuitry comprises linking circuitry for linking to other switched nodes

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- 1 11. A method of reserving resources in a computer network to support a predetermined
2 Quality-of-Service constraint with respect to a new access request to transmit data
3 between a disk drive and a client computer, the computer network comprising a plurality
4 of interconnected computer devices including a plurality of disk drives, each disk drive
5 comprising a head and a disk, the method comprising the steps of:
6 (a) finding at least one disk drive out of the plurality of disk drives that can service the
7 new access request while supporting the Quality-of-Service constraint for the new and
8 existing access requests; and
9 (b) reserving resources within the at least one disk drive to service the new access
10 request.
- 11 12. The method of reserving resources as recited in claim 11, wherein the resources comprise
12 memory for buffering data.
- 13 13. The method of reserving resources as recited in claim 11, wherein the resources comprise
14 network circuitry for communicating with the computer network.
- 15 14. The method of reserving resources as recited in claim 13, wherein:
16 (a) the network circuitry comprises multi-port switching circuitry for simultaneously
17 transmitting data in multiple dimensions through the computer network; and
18 (b) the resources comprise a virtual lane within the multi-port switching circuitry.
- 19 15. The method of reserving resources as recited in claim 14, wherein each virtual lane
20 comprises a predetermined priority level.
- 21 16. The method of reserving resources as recited in claim 14, wherein data is queued within
22 each virtual lane in order of arrival into the switched node.
- 23 17. The method of reserving resources as recited in claim 14, wherein data is queued within
24 each virtual lane with respect to transmission deadlines associated with the data.

1 18. The method of reserving resources as recited in claim 14, wherein the multi-port
2 switching circuitry comprises processing circuitry and the resources comprise at least part
3 of the processing circuitry.

1 19. The method of reserving resources as recited in claim 14, wherein:

2 (a) the multi-port switching circuitry comprises linking circuitry for linking nodes in the
3 computer network;

4 (b) the linking circuitry comprises a limited bandwidth; and

5 (c) the resources comprise at least part of the linking circuitry bandwidth.

1 20. The method of reserving resources as recited in claim 14, wherein:

2 (a) the multi-port switching circuitry comprises adapter circuitry for connecting to an
3 external entity; and

4 (b) the resources comprise at least part of the adapter circuitry.

1 21. The method of reserving resources as recited in claim 11, wherein the step of reserving
2 resources comprises the step of limiting movement of the head so as to constrain the head
3 to a predetermined region of the disk.

- 1 22. A computer network comprising:
- 2 (a) a plurality of interconnected computer devices including a plurality of client
- 3 computers and a plurality of disk drives for storing network data, each disk drive
- 4 comprising a head and a disk;
- 5 (b) a plurality of interconnected nodes; and
- 6 (c) a reservation facility for reserving resources within the disk drives and the nodes to
- 7 support a predetermined Quality-of-Service constraint with respect to data transmitted
- 8 between the disk drives and the client computers through the nodes of the computer
- 9 network.
- 10 23. The computer network of claim 22, wherein the resources comprise memory for buffering
- 11 data.
- 12 24. The computer network of claim 22, wherein the resources comprise network circuitry for
- 13 communicating with the computer network.
- 14 25. The computer network of claim 24, wherein:
- 15 (a) the network circuitry comprises multi-port switching circuitry for simultaneously
- 16 transmitting data in multiple dimensions through the computer network; and
- 17 (b) the resources comprise a virtual lane within the multi-port switching circuitry.
- 18 26. The computer network of claim 25, wherein data is queued within each virtual lane in
- 19 order of arrival into the switched node.
- 20 27. The computer network of claim 25, wherein data is queued within each virtual lane with
- 21 respect to transmission deadlines associated with the data.
- 22 28. The computer network of claim 25, wherein the multi-port switching circuitry comprises
- 23 processing circuitry and the resources comprise at least part of the processing circuitry.

- 1 29. The computer network of claim 25, wherein:
- 2 (a) the multi-port switching circuitry comprises linking circuitry for linking the nodes in
- 3 the computer network;
- 4 (b) the linking circuitry comprises a limited bandwidth; and
- 5 (c) the resources comprise at least part of the linking circuitry bandwidth.
- 1 30. The computer network of claim 25, wherein:
- 2 (c) the multi-port switching circuitry comprises adapter circuitry for connecting to an
- 3 external entity; and
- 4 (d) the resources comprise at least part of the adapter circuitry.
- 1 31. The computer network of claim 22, wherein the reservation facility limits movement of
- 2 the head so as to constrain the head to a predetermined region of the disk, thereby
- 3 reserving a resource within the disk drive.
- 1 32. The computer network of claim 22, wherein each node comprises multi-port switching
- 2 circuitry for simultaneously transmitting data in multiple dimensions through the
- 3 computer network.

- 1 34. A switched fabric computer network comprising:
- 2 (a) a plurality of interconnected nodes for simultaneously transmitting data in multiple
- 3 dimensions through the computer network, each node comprising:
- 4 switching circuitry comprising more than two bi-directional ports;
- 5 a disk for storing data; and
- 6 a head actuated over the disk for writing data to and reading data from the disk;
- 7 (b) a reservation facility for reserving resources associated with data read from the disk
- 8 and written to the disk to support a predetermined Quality-of-Service constraint with
- 9 respect to data transmitted between the interconnected nodes and client computers
- 10 connected to the switched fabric computer network; and
- 11 (c) a scheduling facility, responsive to the resources reserved by the reservation facility,
- 12 for scheduling the transmission of data through the interconnected nodes to support
- 13 the predetermined Quality-of-Service constraint.
- 14 35. The switched fabric computer network of claim 34, wherein the resources comprise
- 15 memory for buffering data.
- 16 36. The switched fabric computer network of claim 34, wherein the resources comprise
- 17 network circuitry for communicating with the switched fabric computer network.
- 18 37. The switched fabric computer network of claim 34, wherein:
- 19 (a) the switching circuitry comprises a plurality of virtual lanes; and
- 20 (b) the resources comprise at least one of the virtual lanes.
- 21 38. The switched fabric computer network of claim 37, wherein data is queued within each
- 22 virtual lane in order of arrival into the switched node.
- 23 39. The switched fabric computer network of claim 37, wherein data is queued within each
- 24 virtual lane with respect to transmission deadlines associated with the data.

1 40. The switched fabric computer network of claim 34, wherein the switching circuitry
2 comprises processing circuitry and the resources comprise at least part of the processing
3 circuitry.

1 41. The switched fabric computer network of claim 34, wherein:
2 (a) the switching circuitry comprises linking circuitry for linking to other switched nodes
3 in the computer network;
4 (b) the linking circuitry comprises a limited bandwidth; and
5 (c) the resources comprise at least part of the linking circuitry bandwidth.

1 42. The switched fabric computer network of claim 34, wherein:
2 (e) the switching circuitry comprises adapter circuitry for connecting to an external
3 entity; and
4 (f) the resources comprise at least part of the adapter circuitry.

1 43. The switched fabric computer network of claim 34, wherein the reservation facility limits
2 movement of the head so as to constrain the head to a predetermined region of the disk,
3 thereby reserving a resource within the node.

**RESOURCE RESERVATION SYSTEM IN A COMPUTER NETWORK TO SUPPORT
END-TO-END QUALITY-OF-SERVICE CONSTRAINTS**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A computer network is disclosed comprising a plurality of interconnected computer devices including a plurality of disk drives for storing network data, each disk drive comprising a head and a disk. The computer network comprises a plurality of interconnected nodes, and a reservation facility for reserving resources within the disk drives and the nodes to support a predetermined Quality-of-Service constraint with respect to data transmitted between the disk drives through the nodes of the computer network. In one embodiment, a switched node is disclosed comprising switching circuitry having more than two bi-directional ports for simultaneously transmitting data in multiple dimensions through a computer network, a disk for storing data, a head actuated over the disk for writing data to and reading data from the disk, and a reservation facility for reserving resources associated with data read from the disk and written to the disk to support the predetermined Quality-of-Service constraint with respect to data transmitted through the computer network.

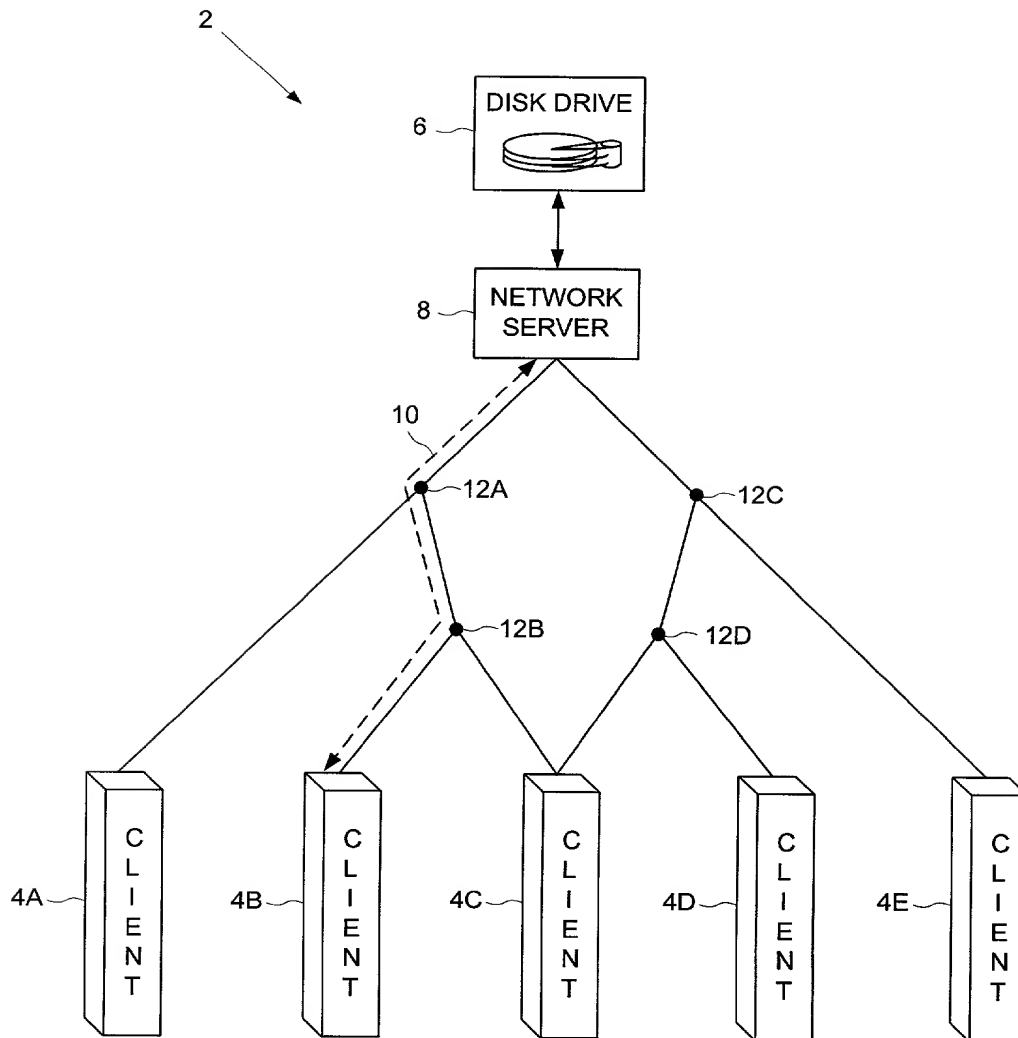


FIG. 1
(Prior Art)

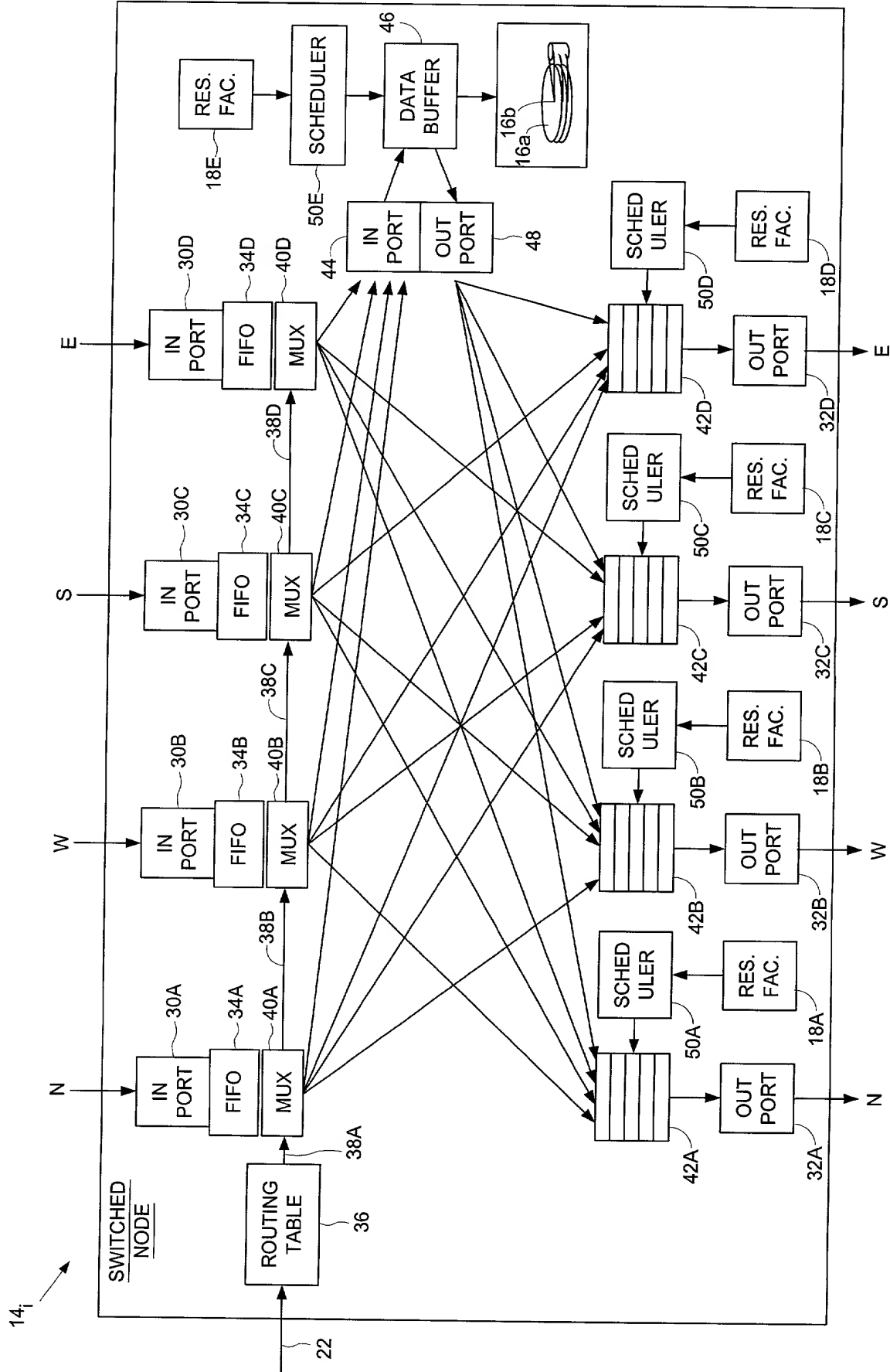


FIG. 2

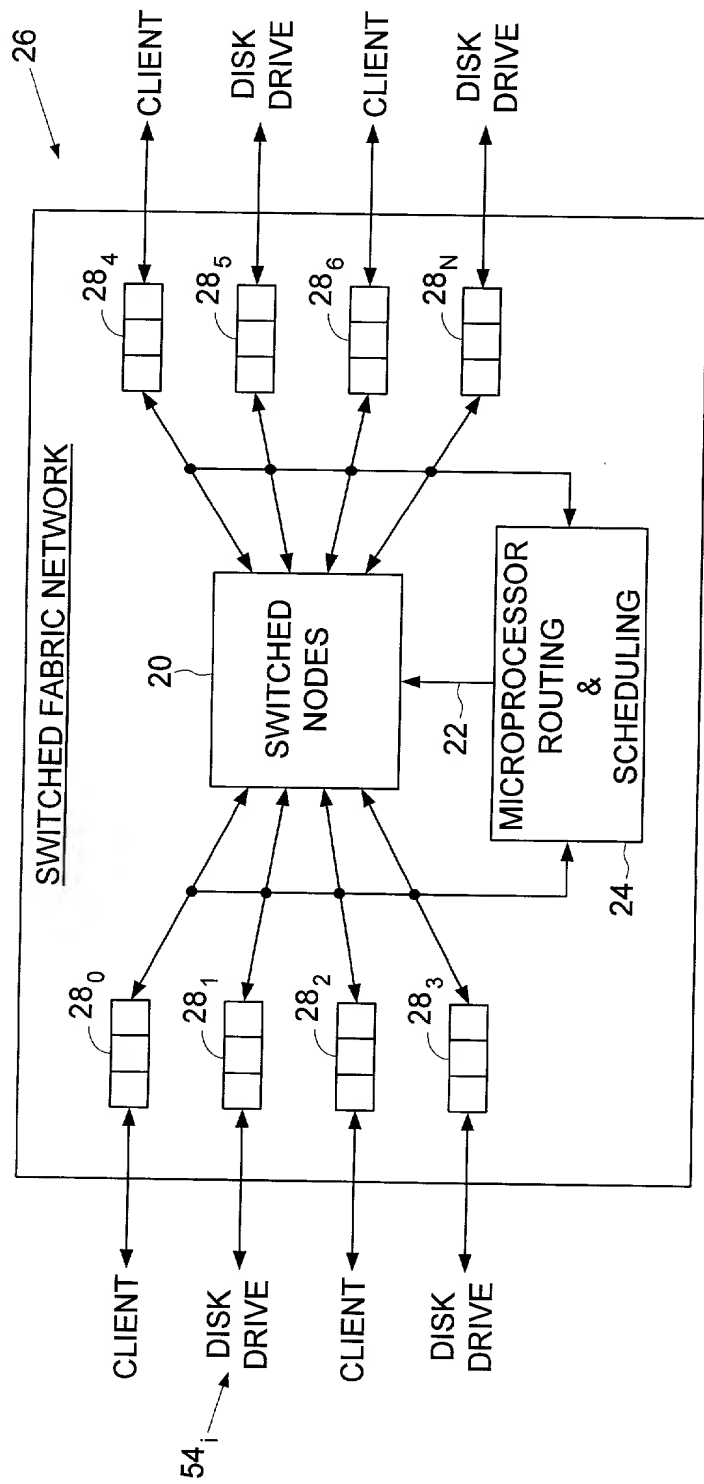


FIG. 4

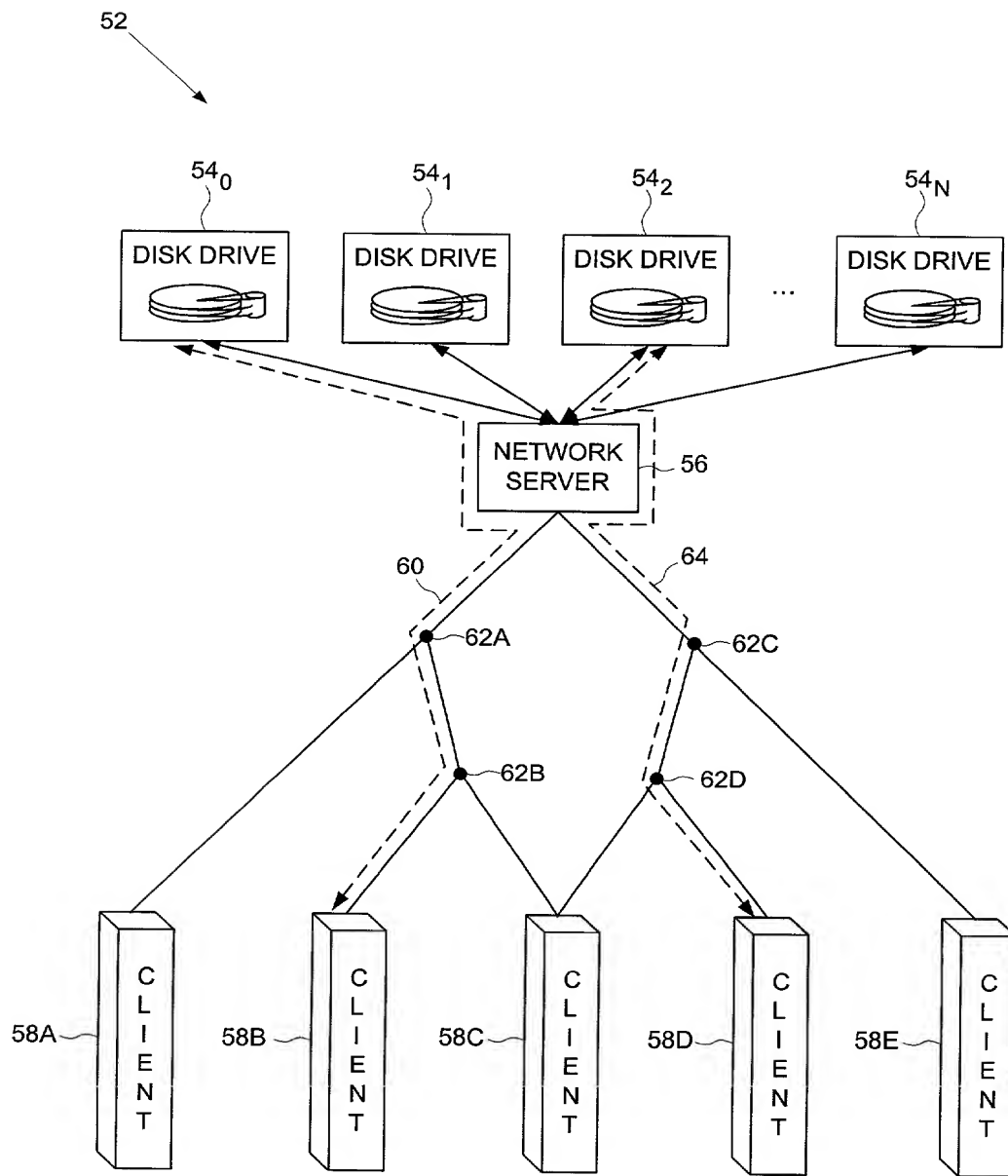


FIG. 5

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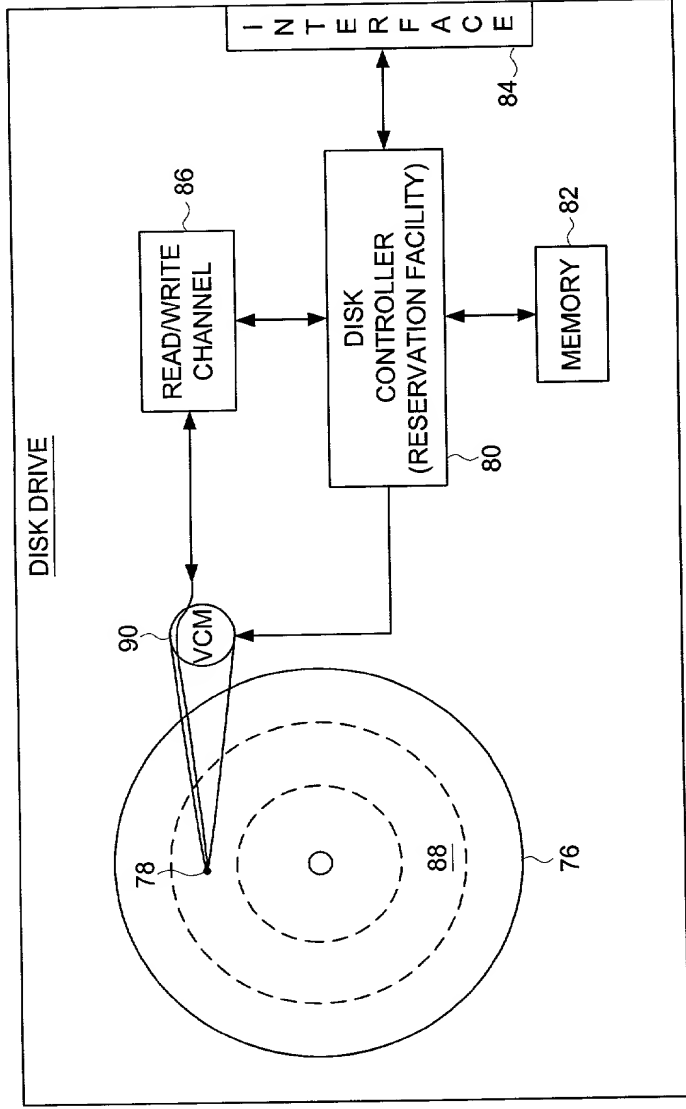


FIG. 7

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**DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR
DESIGN
PATENT APPLICATION
(37 CFR 1.63)**

☒ Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing **OR** ☐ Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required)

Attorney Docket Number	K35A0653
First Named Inventor	ANDREW D. HOSPODOR
COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
Application Number	/ Unknown
Filing Date	Herewith
Group Art Unit	Unknown
Examiner Name	Unknown

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

RESOURCE RESERVATION SYSTEM IN A COMPUTER NETWORK TO SUPPORT
END-TO-END QUALITY-OF-SERVICE CONSTRAINTS

the specification of which (Title of the Invention)

☒ is attached hereto
OR

☐ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
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			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

[Page 1 of 2]

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I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. Parent Application or PCT Parent Number	Parent Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Parent Patent Number (if applicable)

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As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith

☐ Customer Number

OR

☒ Registered practitioner(s) name/registration number listed below

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Name	Registration Number	Name	Registration Number
Milad G. Shara	39,367		
Howard H. Sheerin	37,938		

☐ Additional registered practitioner(s) named on supplemental Registered Practitioner Information sheet PTO/SB/02C attached hereto

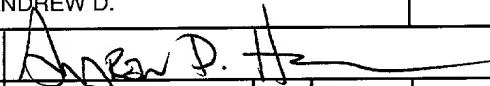
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon

Name of Sole or First Inventor:

☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

Given Name (first and middle (if any))		Family Name or Surname					
ANDREW D.		HOSPODOR					
Inventor's Signature				Date	9/21/00		
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Post Office Address	P.O. BOX 1196						
Post Office Address							
City	LOS GATOS	State	CA	ZIP	95031-1196	Country	USA

☒ Additional inventors are being named on the 1 supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto

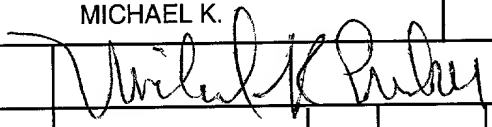
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DECLARATION

ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S) Supplemental Sheet Page 1 of 1

Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:				<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor			
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Post Office Address							
City		SAN JOSE		State		CA	
				ZIP		95124	
				Country		USA	
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:				<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor			
Given Name (first and middle [if any])				Family Name or Surname			
Inventor's Signature				Date			
Residence: City				State		CA	
				Country		USA	
Post Office Address							
Post Office Address							
City				State		CA	
				ZIP			
				Country		USA	
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:				<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor			
Given Name (first and middle [if any])				Family Name or Surname			
Inventor's Signature				Date			
Residence: City				State		CA	
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